



## St. Lucie County, Florida

*The name “St. Lucie” was introduced to the area by the Spanish. The area known as “Santa Lucia” can be traced back to 1565 when the Spanish built a fort by that name in the vicinity of the Jupiter Inlet. Pedro Menendez de Aviles established a colony in 1567 somewhere between present day Vero Beach and Stuart. Spanish maps of that time identify this area as Santa Lucia.*

*In the early 1800s, runaways from Creek tribes in Alabama and Georgia, called “Seminoles,” moved into Florida.*

*St. Lucie County was established from a portion of Mosquito County in 1844 and named for Saint Lucy of Syracuse - the patron saint of blindness who was persecuted and died in the early fourth century in defense of her faith. What is today Brevard, Indian River, Okeechobee, and Martin Counties was once part of St. Lucie County. The name was changed to Brevard during the 1850s. St. Lucie broke away from Brevard in 1905 and On July 1, 1905 St. Lucie County, Florida was established with Fort Pierce as the county seat. Okeechobee broke away and was formed in 1917, with Indian River and Martin Counties following suit in 1925.*

### **Significant Highlights**

**1901** ~ On February 02, 1901 there was a meeting of all registered voters at the Davis Hall, Fort Pierce, Brevard County Florida to organize a municipal government. On this day, 54 of the 66 voters voted to incorporate. Elected as mayor was A.C. Dittmar and five aldermen; D.L. Alderman, A.Y.W. Hogg, P.P. Cobb, L.L. Carlton and F.M. Tyler. Elected as city clerk was H.I. Kloop and as marshal was D.S. Carlton.

**1905** ~ St. Lucie is re-created as the forty-sixth Florida county and is named for St. Lucie of Syracuse. At that time the land area included what would eventually become the counties of Indian River, Okeechobee and Martin. Official formation of St. Lucie County occurred on July 1<sup>st</sup> followed by a parade down Orange Avenue on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The official population of the county was 3,024. The first edition of The St. Lucie Tribune was published on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. F.H. Fee owned the first automobile in Fort Pierce - an Orient Buckboard. The license fee was \$2.00.

### **1906**

The Fort Pierce Board of Trade is established which later becomes the Fort Pierce-St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce and eventually the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce.  
St. Lucie County's first political election is held.

### **1909**

The St. Lucie County Court House is constructed on Indian River Drive where the courthouse annex is now located.

### **1910**

The population of St. Lucie County has grown to 4,750. Fort Pierce had 1,337 residents.

**1913**

*The Fort Pierce Women's Club establishes a "reading room" which will later become the St. Lucie County Public Library System.*

**1917**

*On August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Florida Legislature carved out a significant portion of western St. Lucie County to create Okeechobee County.*

**1925**

*On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Governor John W. Martin signed two bills impacting St. Lucie County. One took the northern portion of St. Lucie County and created Indian River County. The other took the southern portion and created Martin County.*

**1955**

*St. Lucie County Public Library opens.*

**1984**

*Havert Fenn becomes the first black elected official in St. Lucie County when voters choose him to sit on the Board of County Commissioners.*

**1986**

*Thomas J. White begins the creation of the town of St. Lucie West on 4600 acres in western St. Lucie County.*

**1996**

*The St. Lucie County - Fort Pierce Fire District merge to become the St. Lucie County Fire District.*

**2000**

*St. Lucie County is estimated to have 183,000 residents, of which 83,254 reside in the City of Port St. Lucie.*

**2001**

*The City of Fort Pierce held its Centennial Celebration.*